

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the indicated paragraphs of the specification in accordance with the amendments indicated below.

1, Page 1: 1st full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

The invention relates to a method, a device and ~~an auxiliary joining part~~ a rivet for mechanical joining by means of punch riveting.

B₂
Page 1: 2nd full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

In known punch riveting with semitubular rivets the ~~auxiliary joining part~~ ~~(the rivet)~~ rivet is joined into the sheets to be joined by a linear movement without a prepunched hole.

B₃
Page 1: 8th full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

Due to the flow of the sheet material and the additional deformation of the ~~auxiliary joining part~~ rivet, a specific shape of the joint results during the linear punch movement.

a₄
Page 2: 8th full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

According to the invention, the problem is further solved by a rivet ~~an auxiliary joining part~~ whereby the shank inner and outer contours, beginning from the rivet foot in direction of the rivet head, are shaped such that a continuous increase of the cross-sectional area of the rivet shank results.

The paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, please amend as indicated below:

The inner curves 6d and 6e and the outer curves 6b and 6c are connected to each other by a tangential transition. This aims at increasing the cross sectional area of the rivet, which is an annular area in the lower portion and a circular area in the upper portion, continuously beginning from the rivet foot. Therefore, in every cross-section the bending moment which increases beginning from the rivet foot during joining can be taken into account and no weak points develop at chamfer or radius, respectively at transition points. Owing to this design of the ~~auxiliary joining part~~ rivet the loads developing during partial deformation can be absorbed in an improved way and the undesired compression of the rivet foot can be reduces. A better expansion develops and hence a higher strength of the joint.